

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 <sup>sub</sup> 1. A method for adding a network station client to an  
2 ongoing conference call, said method comprising:  
3 extending a persistent invitation to a first network station  
4 client to join a conference call in response to a  
5 determination that the first network station client is  
6 unavailable to accept a non-persistent invitation to join  
7 the conference call; and  
8 adding the first network station client to the conference call  
9 when the first network station client accepts the  
10 persistent invitation to join the conference call.

1 2. The method of Claim 1, wherein said extending a  
2 persistent invitation to a first network station client to join a  
3 conference call in response to a determination that the first network  
4 station client is unavailable to accept a non-persistent invitation  
5 to join the conference call further includes:  
6 directing a token generator to issue the persistent invitation  
7 to the first network station client in response to user  
8 input to a second network station client.

1 3. The method of Claim 1, wherein said extending a  
2 persistent invitation to a first network station client to join a  
3 conference call in response to a determination that the first network  
4 station client is unavailable to accept a non-persistent invitation  
5 to join the conference call further includes:  
6 receiving a message that the first network station client is  
7 busy.

1 4. The method of Claim 1, wherein said extending a  
2 persistent invitation to a first network station client to join a  
3 conference call in response to a determination that the first network  
4 station client is unavailable to accept a non-persistent invitation  
5 to join the conference call further includes:  
6 determining that the first network station client is not  
7 responding to the non-persistent invitation to join the  
8 conference call within a specified time period.

1 5. The method of Claim 1, wherein said extending a  
2 persistent invitation to a first network station client to join a

3 conference call in response to a determination that the first network  
4 station client is unavailable to accept a non-persistent invitation  
5 to join the conference call further includes:

6 sending to the first network station client a token having at  
7 least one field selected from the group comprising a  
8 token ID field, a conference ID field, a password field,  
9 an expiration time field, and a conference call  
10 participant information field.

1 6. The method of Claim 5, wherein said sending to the first  
2 network station client a token having at least one field selected  
3 from the group comprising a token ID field, a conference ID field, a  
4 password field, an expiration time field, and a conference call  
5 participant information field further includes:

6 sending to the first network station client a reference used to  
7 retrieve state data where such state data functions as at  
8 least one field selected from the group comprising a  
9 token ID field, a conference ID field, a password field,  
10 an expiration time field, and a conference call  
11 participant information field.

1 7. The method of Claim 1, wherein said adding the first  
2 network station client to the conference call when the first network  
3 station client accepts the persistent invitation to join the  
4 conference call further includes:

5 detecting that the first network station client has returned a  
6 token to a token processor in indication that the first  
7 network station client has accepted the persistent  
8 invitation to join the conference call.

1 8. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:  
2 withdrawing the persistent invitation upon termination of the  
3 conference call.

1 9. The method of Claim 8, wherein said withdrawing the  
2 persistent invitation upon termination of the conference call further  
3 includes:

4 notifying the first network station client that the conference  
5 call has been terminated.

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10. The method of Claim 9, wherein said notifying the first  
network station client that the conference call has been terminated  
further includes:  
a multipoint controller notifying the first network station  
client that the conference call has been terminated.

11. A system for adding a network station client to an ongoing conference call, said system comprising:  
means for extending a persistent invitation to a first network station client to join a conference call in response to a determination that the first network station client is unavailable to accept a non-persistent invitation to join the conference call; and  
means for adding the first network station client to the conference call when the first network station client accepts the persistent invitation to join the conference call.

12. The system of Claim 11, wherein said means for extending a persistent invitation to a first network station client to join a conference call in response to a determination that the first network station client is unavailable to accept a non-persistent invitation to join the conference call further includes:  
means for directing a token generator to issue the persistent invitation to the first network station client in response to user input to a second network station client.

13. The system of Claim 11, wherein said means for extending a persistent invitation to a first network station client to join a conference call in response to a determination that the first network station client is unavailable to accept a non-persistent invitation to join the conference call further includes:  
means for receiving a message that the first network station client is busy.

14. The system of Claim 11, wherein said means for extending a persistent invitation to a first network station client to join a conference call in response to a determination that the first network station client is unavailable to accept a non-persistent invitation to join the conference call further includes:  
means for determining that the first network station client is not responding to the non-persistent invitation to join the conference call within a specified time period.

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634603-4

1 15. The system of Claim 11, wherein said means for extending  
2 a persistent invitation to a first network station client to join a  
3 conference call in response to a determination that the first network  
4 station client is unavailable to accept a non-persistent invitation  
5 to join the conference call further includes:

6 means for sending to the first network station client a token  
7 having at least one field selected from the group  
8 comprising a token ID field, a conference ID field, a  
9 password field, an expiration time field, and a  
10 conference call participant information field.

1 16. The system of Claim 15, wherein said means for sending to  
2 the first network station client a token having at least one field  
3 selected from the group comprising a token ID field, a conference ID  
4 field, a password field, an expiration time field, and a conference  
5 call participant information field further includes:

6 means for sending to the first network station client a  
7 reference used to retrieve state data where such state  
8 data functions as at least one field selected from the  
9 group comprising a token ID field, a conference ID field,  
10 a password field, an expiration time field, and a  
11 conference call participant information field.

1 17. The system of Claim 11, wherein said means for adding the  
2 first network station client to the conference call when the first  
3 network station client accepts the persistent invitation to join the  
4 conference call further includes:

5 means for detecting that the first network station client has  
6 returned a token to a token processor in indication that  
7 the first network station client has accepted the  
8 persistent invitation to join the conference call.

1 18. The system of Claim 11, further comprising:  
2 means for withdrawing the persistent invitation upon  
3 termination of the conference call.

1 19. The system of Claim 18, wherein said means for  
2 withdrawing the persistent invitation upon termination of the  
3 conference call further includes:

4 means for notifying the first network station client that the  
5 conference call has been terminated.

1 20. The system of Claim 19, wherein said means for notifying  
2 the first network station client that the conference call has been  
3 terminated further includes:

4 means for a multipoint controller notifying the first network  
5 station client that the conference call has been  
6 terminated.

1 21. The system of Claim 18, further comprising:  
2 signal bearing media bearing

3 said means for extending a persistent invitation to a  
4 first network station client to join a conference  
5 call in response to a determination that the first  
6 network station client is unavailable to accept a  
7 non-persistent invitation to join the conference  
8 call,

9 said means for adding the first network station client to  
10 the conference call when the first network station  
11 client accepts the persistent invitation to join  
12 the conference call, and

13 said means for withdrawing the persistent invitation upon  
14 termination of the conference call.

1 22. The system of Claim 21, wherein said signal bearing media  
2 further comprises:

3 recordable media.

1 23. The system of Claim 21, wherein said signal bearing media  
2 further comprises:

3 transmission media.

24. A method for accepting an invitation to join an ongoing conference call, said method comprising:  
receiving at an initially unavailable network station client a persistent invitation to join a conference call; and  
accepting the persistent invitation to join the conference call in response to user input to a network station client selected from the group comprising the initially unavailable network station client and another network station client where the user has been authenticated.

25. The method of Claim 24, wherein said receiving at an initially unavailable network station client a persistent invitation to join a conference call further includes:  
receiving a token indicative of a persistent invitation to join the conference call, the token having at least one field selected from the group comprising a token ID field, a conference ID field, a password field, an expiration time field, and a conference call participant information field; and  
presenting an alert that the persistent invitation to join the conference call has been received, in response to the token.

26. The method of Claim 25, wherein said receiving a token indicative of a persistent invitation to join the conference call, the token having at least one field selected from the group comprising a token ID field, a conference ID field, a password field, an expiration time field, and a conference call participant information field further includes:  
receiving a reference used to retrieve state data where such state data functions as at least one field selected from the group comprising a token ID field, a conference ID field, a password field, an expiration time field, and a conference call participant information field.

27. The method of Claim 25, wherein said presenting an alert further comprises:  
presenting at least one visual alert from the group comprising a Graphical User Interface icon, a conference call Camp-On LED indicator, and a conference call Camp-On email message.

577266 v2  
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1 28. The method of Claim 25, wherein said presenting an alert  
2 further comprises:

3 presenting an auditory alert selected from the group comprising  
4 a notification via a network station speaker, a voice-  
5 mail conference call Camp-On message, or a conference  
6 call Camp-On pager notification.

1 29. The method of Claim 24, wherein said accepting the  
2 persistent invitation to join the conference call in response to user  
3 input to a network station client selected from the group comprising  
4 the initially unavailable network station client and another network  
5 station client where the user has been authenticated further  
6 includes:

7 accepting user input indicating that the persistent invitation  
8 to join the conference call has been accepted; and  
9 transmitting a token to a multipoint controller as an  
10 indication that the persistent invitation to join the  
11 conference call has been accepted.

1 30. The method of Claim 29, wherein the token further  
2 includes:  
3 identification of a transmitting user as a valid participant in  
4 the conference call.

1 31. The method of Claim 29, wherein the token further  
2 includes:  
3 at least one field selected from the group comprising a token  
4 ID field, a conference ID field, a password field, an  
5 expiration time field, and a conference call participant  
6 information field.

1 32. The method of Claim 29, wherein the token further  
2 includes:  
3 a reference used to retrieve state data where such state data  
4 functions as at least one field selected from the group  
5 comprising a token ID field, a conference ID field, a  
6 password field, an expiration time field, and a  
7 conference call participant information field.

577266 v2



1        33.    The method of Claim 29, wherein said transmitting a token  
2    to a multipoint controller as an indication that the invitation to  
3    join the conference call has been accepted further includes:  
4        retrieving the token from a cache.

1        34.    The method of Claim 33, wherein said retrieving the token  
2    from a cache further includes:  
3        retrieving the token from a cache local to an invited network  
4        station client.

1        35.    The method of Claim 33, wherein said retrieving the token  
2    from a cache further includes:  
3        retrieving the token from a cache local to a network server.

1        36.    The method of Claim 24, wherein said accepting the  
2    persistent invitation to join the conference call in response to user  
3    input further includes:  
4        withdrawing an ability to accept the persistent invitation in  
5        response to a notification that the conference call has  
6        terminated.

1        37.    The method of Claim 36, wherein said withdrawing an  
2    ability to accept the persistent invitation in response to a  
3    notification that the conference call has terminated further  
4    includes:  
5        withdrawing a presented notice that the persistent invitation  
6        to join the conference call has been extended.

1        38.    The method of Claim 36, wherein said withdrawing an  
2    ability to accept the persistent invitation in response to a  
3    notification that the conference call has terminated further  
4    includes:  
5        withdrawing the ability to accept the persistent invitation in  
6        response to a notification from a multipoint controller  
7        that the conference call has terminated.

1           39. A system for accepting an invitation to join an ongoing  
2 conference call, said system comprising:

3           means for receiving at an initially unavailable network station  
4           client a persistent invitation to join a conference call;  
5           and

6           means for accepting the persistent invitation to join the  
7           conference call in response to user input to a network  
8           station client selected from the group comprising the  
9           initially unavailable network station client and another  
10          network station client where the user has been  
11          authenticated.

1           40. The system of Claim 39, wherein said means for receiving  
2 at an initially unavailable network station client a persistent  
3 invitation to join a conference call further includes:

4           means for receiving a token indicative of a persistent  
5           invitation to join the conference call, the token having  
6           at least one field selected from the group comprising a  
7           token ID field, a conference ID field, a password field,  
8           an expiration time field, and a conference call  
9           participant information field; and

10          means for presenting an alert that the persistent invitation to  
11          join the conference call has been received, in response  
12          to the token.

1           41. The system of Claim 40, wherein said means for receiving  
2 a token indicative of a persistent invitation to join the conference  
3 call, the token having at least one field selected from the group  
4 comprising a token ID field, a conference ID field, a password field,  
5 an expiration time field, and a conference call participant  
6 information field further includes:

7           means for receiving a reference used to retrieve state data  
8           where such state data functions as at least one field  
9           selected from the group comprising a token ID field, a  
10          conference ID field, a password field, an expiration time  
11          field, and a conference call participant information  
12          field.

1        42. The system of Claim 40, wherein said means for presenting  
2 an alert further comprises:

3        means for presenting at least one visual alert from the group  
4        comprising a Graphical User Interface icon, a conference  
5        call Camp-On LED indicator, and a conference call Camp-On  
6        email message.

1        43. The system of Claim 40, wherein said means for presenting  
2 an alert further comprises:

3        means for presenting an auditory alert selected from the group  
4        comprising a notification via a network station speaker,  
5        a voice-mail conference call Camp-On message, or a  
6        conference call Camp-On pager notification.

1        44. The system of Claim 39, wherein said means for accepting  
2 the persistent invitation to join the conference call in response to  
3 user input to a network station client selected from the group  
4 comprising the initially unavailable network station client and  
5 another network station client where the user has been authenticated  
6 further includes:

7        means for accepting user input indicating that the persistent  
8        invitation to join the conference call has been accepted;  
9        and

10       means for transmitting a token to a multipoint controller as an  
11       indication that the persistent invitation to join the  
12       conference call has been accepted.

1        45. The system of Claim 44, wherein the token further  
2 includes:

3        identification of a transmitting user as a valid participant in  
4        the conference call.

1        46. The system of Claim 44, wherein the token further  
2 includes:

3        at least one field selected from the group comprising a token  
4        ID field, a conference ID field, a password field, an  
5        expiration time field, and a conference call participant  
6        information field.

- 1 47. The system of Claim 44, wherein the token further  
2 includes:  
3 a reference used to retrieve state data where such state data  
4 functions as at least one field selected from the group  
5 comprising a token ID field, a conference ID field, a  
6 password field, an expiration time field, and a  
7 conference call participant information field.
- 1 48. The system of Claim 44, wherein said means for  
2 transmitting a token to a multipoint controller as an indication that  
3 the invitation to join the conference call has been accepted further  
4 includes:  
5 means for retrieving the token from a cache.
- 1 49. The system of Claim 48, wherein said means for retrieving  
2 the token from a cache further includes:  
3 means for retrieving the token from a cache local to an invited  
4 network station client.
- 1 50. The system of Claim 48, wherein said means for retrieving  
2 the token from a cache further includes:  
3 means for retrieving the token from a cache local to a network  
4 server.
- 1 51. The system of Claim 39, wherein said means for accepting  
2 the persistent invitation to join the conference call in response to  
3 user input further includes:  
4 means for withdrawing an ability to accept the persistent  
5 invitation in response to a notification that the  
6 conference call has terminated.
- 1 52. The system of Claim 51, wherein said means for  
2 withdrawing an ability to accept the persistent invitation in  
3 response to a notification that the conference call has terminated  
4 further includes:  
5 means for withdrawing a presented notice that the persistent  
6 invitation to join the conference call has been extended.

577266 v2

1 53. The system of Claim 51, wherein said means for  
2 withdrawing an ability to accept the persistent invitation in  
3 response to a notification that the conference call has terminated  
4 further includes:

5 means for withdrawing the ability to accept the persistent  
6 invitation in response to a notification from a  
7 multipoint controller that the conference call has  
8 terminated.

1 54. The system of Claim 39, further comprising:  
2 signal bearing media bearing

3 said means for receiving at an initially unavailable  
4 network station client a persistent invitation to  
5 join a conference call, and

6 said means for accepting the persistent invitation to  
7 join the conference call in response to user input  
8 to a network station client selected from the group  
9 comprising the initially unavailable network  
10 station client and another network station client  
11 where the user has been authenticated.

1 55. The system of Claim 54, wherein said signal bearing media  
2 further includes:  
3 recordable media.

1 56. The system of Claim 54, wherein said signal bearing media  
2 further includes:  
3 transmission media.

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